[24th February 1955

(*b*) how many of them have been sanctioned and paid, how many were refused and how many are still pending; and

(*c*) whether any steps has been taken to increase the loan amount to Rs. 1,000?

A.—(*a*) 1953–54 236
1954–55 61

(*b*) Number of applications sanctioned and paid—
1953–54 25
1954–55 3

Number of applications refused—
1953–54 155
1954–55 14

Number of applications pending—
1953–54 56
1954–55 44

(*c*) The question is under examination of the Government.

III.—MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :—" I have to announce to the House that I have received the following message, dated the 23rd February 1955, from the Hon. the Speaker, Madras Legislative Assembly :—

' In accordance with rule 114 of the Madras Assembly Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras Indebted Agriculturists (Repayment of Debts). Bill, 1955 (L.A. Bill No. 2 of 1955), as passed by the Assembly, on the 23rd February 1955 and signed by me, for the concurrence of the Council '.

IV.—STATEMENT BY SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM UNDER RULE 41 (1) OF THE MADRAS COUNCIL RULES.

* SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Mr. Deputy Chairman, under rule 41 (1) of the Madras Council Rules and with your permission, I invite the attention of the Hon. the Minister for Public Works and the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration to a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the tragic death of a 7-year old boy by name Papa of Triplicane in Peyalvar Koil Street, as a result of the boy coming into contact with a live-wire, while he was playing near his house in that street in Triplicane. It was a new moon night and there was a large gathering for the *teppam* festival of the Parthasarathi Swami temple. The boy was playing near the lamp post and was electrocuted in the public street. The trap door of the lamp post had fallen and there was only a cardboard tied round at the time. I was there when the accident took place and therefore, I have the personal authority to make this statement with personal knowledge. It is most unfortunate that sufficient precaution had not been taken in spite of the report made to the authorities about the missing trap door. The lamp post has been provided with a door after the incident. There are similar posts still to be seen in that area without trap door, but only covered with a cardboard. This is a serious matter which has resulted in